



State of Connecticut  
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SUBSTITUTE TESTIMONY OF  
REPRESENTATIVE ELISSA WRIGHT  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 41<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT

***Raised Bill No. 7366, AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH  
CLINICS AND COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH CENTERS.***

*Public Health Committee  
March 14, 2007*

Senator Handley, Representative Sayers, Members of the Public Health Committee, for the record, my name is Elissa Wright, State Representative from the 41<sup>st</sup> District, within the Town of Groton.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify at this public hearing in support of ***Raised Bill No. 7366, AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CLINICS AND COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH CENTERS.*** I want to thank Senator Maynard and Representative Moukawsher who along with me recognize the need for school based health center expansion in Groton.

School-based health centers have proven effective in the delivery of preventative and primary health care to children and adolescents in the Town of Groton and throughout the state. Among the health services provided are: diagnosis and treatment of acute injuries and illnesses; routine check-ups; physical exams, including physicals for school entry and for sports; immunizations; prescriptions and dispensing of medications; and nutrition counseling. By providing basic health care to students, school based health clinics also reduce absences and improve academic performance of all students.

More than 2,400 students are currently enrolled in the four school-based health centers (SBHC) in Groton – at two elementary schools, one middle school and the high school.

As currently configured, SBHC's in the Groton schools provide a continuity of excellent care for students from Eastern Point Elementary School who then attend West Side Middle School and Fitch High School.

In this session, we are requesting the opportunity for the same continuity of care to the students currently served by the SBHC at Claude Chester Elementary school -- which is feeder school to Fitch Middle School -- through the establishment of a new SBHC at Fitch Middle School, as proposed in Bill No 5765. With funding for a nurse practitioner, mental health clinician, and an outreach worker, a clinic at the Fitch Middle School would provide access to health care for these students -- nearly 40% of whom are eligible for free/reduced-price meals -- leading to enhanced lifetime health and economic prospects.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be heard and I welcome any comments or questions you may have.